



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1939

J. W. INNES, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

WHITEHAVEN

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1940

HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE.

Chairman Alderman STEPHENSON.

Vice-Chairman Councillor CLAYTON.

The Mayor (Alderman J. B. Smith).

Aldermen—HINDE and WILKINSON.

Councillors—ARMSTRONG, BROWNE, FEARON, and McSHERRY.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Chairman Alderman STEPHENSON.

Vice-Chairman Councillor CLAYTON.

The members of the Health and Housing Committee with
Mesdames FITZSIMONS, JOHNSON, and WIGNALL.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.


J. W. INNES, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.				<i>Medical Officer of Health</i>
J. L. HUNTER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.				<i>Deputy Medical Officer of Health</i>
H. HILTON, L.D.S.	...	...	...	<i>Dental Officer</i>
J. F. LORD, C.R.S.I.	...	...	...	<i>Sanitary Inspector</i>
E. ELLERINGTON, C.R.S.I.	...	...	...	<i>Additional Sanitary Inspector</i> (Appointed 1-7-39)
MISS BERRY	...	...	...	<i>Health Visitor and School Nurse</i>
MISS CRAGGS (resigned 30-11-39)	...	...	...	Do.
MISS LODGE	...	...	...	Do.
MISS HODGSON	...	...	...	Do.

The above are fully trained Nurses, and hold the C.M.B. Certificate, and the Health Visitors' Certificate.

MISS FIELD, C.M.B.	...	...	...	<i>Dental Attendant</i>
J. WEAR	...	...	...	<i>Clerk</i>
MISS DAVIDSON	...	...	...	<i>Clerk-Typist</i>

PART TIME.

J. A. ROSS, M.A., M.B., Ch.B.	...	...	} <i>Consultant</i> <i>Ophthalmic Surgeons</i>
A. W. PATTON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,			
D.O.M.S.	...	...
J. STEVEN FAULDS, M.D., F.R.F.P.S.	...		<i>Bacteriologist,</i> <i>Cumberland Laboratory</i>
A. W. PURDIE, M.B., Ch.B., M.C.O.G.	...		<i>Consultant Gynaecologist</i> (resigned 11-5-39)
C. J. H. STOCK, B.Sc., F.I.C.	<i>Analyst</i>
W. LITT, M.R.C.V.S.	<i>Veterinary Inspector</i>



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TOWN HALL,

WHITEHAVEN,

October 2nd, 1940.

To His Worship The Mayor,

The Aldermen and Councillors,

Borough of Whitehaven.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health for the year 1939.

The Report is somewhat belated this year owing to the Registrar General being unable to supply the figures necessary for the compilation of the statistical part until a much later date than usual on account of the abnormal conditions prevailing.

Much extra work has fallen to the share of the Health Department, as to other Departments, in connection with Air Raids Precautions, the reception and supervision of Evacuees from other districts, and other activities arising from the present situation. The centralisation of slaughtering in Whitehaven for both the Borough and Ennerdale Rural District has entailed a very large increase in Meat Inspection by the Sanitary Officers. On the other hand it is only fair to say that quite a considerable amount of work in connection with such matters as slum clearance has necessarily and unfortunately had to be put aside.

The postponement of housing work in particular, although unavoidable, is to be regretted when one felt that the Borough was definitely making headway in this direction.

Employment conditions in the Borough have improved considerably owing to the establishment of new works in neighbouring districts which have absorbed large numbers of unemployed.

In regard to the general health of the community, statistics are rather mixed, some showing an improvement, others the reverse. The Birth Rate and the general Death Rate both

showed an improvement on the previous year. On the other hand the Infantile Mortality Rate and the Death Rate from Tuberculosis were the worst recorded for a number of years. The Infantile Mortality Rate had been successively lowered until for the two years 1936 and 1937 it had been lower than the rate for the whole county, but the last two returns have been most unsatisfactory and the attention of the Welfare Department has been specially directed towards this retrogression.

Efforts were continued in the earlier months of the year to maintain our advance towards better housing conditions and nine more areas were represented for clearance but the outbreak of war meant the suspension of these activities.

Overcrowding was reduced still further until it had almost disappeared, but the change in conditions and the influx of persons from other areas has, I am afraid, altered the situation considerably since the end of 1939.

War had not affected the staffing of the Health Department prior to the close of 1939, but Dr. Hunter and Mr. Wear have left since then to join the Services.

My thanks are due to the members of my staff for their loyal service and the way they have undertaken extra work in various ways, and to all others who have assisted us in any way, especially the Heads and Officials of other departments, and to the Chairman and members of the Health and Housing and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees for their continued support and sympathetic consideration in all matters pertaining to the furtherance of Health Services in the Borough.

I am,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

J. W. INNES,

Medical Officer of Health.

A.—STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

I.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of Borough in acres	...	...	...	...	4,315
Registrar General's estimate of resident population, (mid year, 1939)	...	...	...	...	22,370
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1939) accord- ing to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	5,884
Rateable Value (1st April, 1939)	...	...	...	...	£98,883
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£370

II.—SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The chief source of employment has up to now been the coal mines and the state of employment has depended almost entirely on conditions in the coal industry, but latterly other industries have been introduced or other sources of employment are at present available in connection with Government and other undertakings in the vicinity.

The total insured population for the Whitehaven Labour Exchange area, which includes St. Bees and Parton as well as the Borough of Whitehaven was at the beginning of the year 7,949 of whom 1,868 or 23% were unemployed.

The number of unemployed rose at the beginning of 1939 to 2,135, but by the end of the year this number had declined to 1,400 out of a total of 8,166 insured persons, representing a proportion of unemployment equal to 17%, a slight improvement on the previous year.

Fuller employment in the Collieries and the establishment of various industries and war schemes have since still further improved the employment position to a very considerable extent.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

<i>Births.</i>				<i>Male. Female. Total.</i>		
Live Births.—Legitimate	...	...	...	201	197	398
—Illegitimate	...	...	...	10	6	16
Total ...				211	203	414

Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	...	...	...	...	18.5	
				<i>Male. Female. Total.</i>		
Still Births.—Legitimate	...	...	...	10	6	16
—Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	—	1
Total ...				11	6	17

Rate per 1,000 total births ... 39.4

<i>Deaths.</i>				<i>Male. Female. Total.</i>		
Deaths (all ages)	...	...	...	150	137	287
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of Population	...	...	...	...	12.8	
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 of Population	...	...	...	...	14.3	

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

				<i>Rate per 1,000</i>	
				<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>(Live & Still) Births.</i>
From Sepsis	...	...	...	<i>nil</i>	—
From other causes	...	...	...	3	6.93
Total ...				3	6.93

DEATH RATE of INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR of AGE.

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	75
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				72
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				125

DEATHS from CANCER (all ages)	...	...	...	37
„ „ MEASLES (all ages)	...	...	...	<i>nil</i>
„ „ WHOOPING COUGH (all ages)	...			1
„ „ DIARRHOEA (under two years of age)				2

POPULATION.

The Registrar General's estimate of resident population in the Borough at the middle of 1939 was 22,370, an increase of 20 compared with the mid-year estimate for 1938.

The population at the last census and the mid-year estimates since are shown below:—

	<i>Actual Count at Census.</i>			<i>Registrar General's Mid-year Estimate.</i>	
1931	21,142	...	21,270		
1932	—	...	21,400		
1933	—	...	21,220		
1934 (Borough Extended)	—	...	23,185		
1935	—	...	23,060		
1936	—	...	22,970		
1937	—	...	22,380		
1938	—	...	22,350		
1939	—	...	22,370		

BIRTHS.

Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	...	18.5
„ „ England and Wales	...	15.0
„ „ 126 Great Towns ...	...	14.8
„ „ 148 Smaller Towns	...	15.6
(population 25,000—50,000)		
„ „ London Ad. County	...	12.3
„ „ County of Cumberland	...	15.9

The number of live births registered during the year was 414, 211 males and 203 females, of whom 10 males and 6 females were illegitimate. The Birth Rate was 18.5 per thousand of estimated resident population, the rate being 1.3 above the rate for 1938, whereas the rate for the country as a whole showed a decrease of 0.1. The rate for Whitehaven was 3.5 greater than the rate for England.

The following Table shows the average annual number of births and average annual Birth Rate per 1,000 of population by five-year periods since 1890, with the corresponding rate for England and Wales along with the actual figures since 1935:—

Period.	Borough of Whitehaven.		England and Wales.
	Average Annual No. of Births.	Average Annual Birth Rate per 1,000 of population.	Average Annual Birth Rate per 1,000 of population.
1891—1895	586	32.0	30.5
1896—1900	595	30.9	29.3
1901—1905	644	33.3	28.2
1906—1910	592	30.6	26.3
1911—1915	568	29.6	23.6
1916—1920	533	27.8	20.1
1921—1925	559	27.6	19.9
1926—1930	485	24.0	16.7
1931—1935	449	20.5	15.0
	Number of Births.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of population.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of population.
1936	438	19.1	14.8
1937	411	18.4	14.9
1938	385	17.2	15.1
1939	414	18.5	15.0

DEATHS.

Death Rate per 1,000 of population (crude)	...	12.8
" " " " " " (adjusted)	...	14.3
" " England and Wales (crude)	...	12.1
" " 125 Great Towns	...	12.0
" " 148 Smaller Towns	...	11.2
" " London	...	11.9
" " County of Cumberland	...	13.4

The number of deaths of residents belonging to the Borough, after making allowance for inward and outward transfers, *i.e.*, after adding the number of residents who died outside the Borough, but were ordinarily resident in the Borough, and deducting those who died in the Borough but were normally resident outside, was 287, viz., 150 males and 137 females, which gives a crude Death Rate of 12.8, and an adjusted Death Rate of 14.3 per thousand.

The actual number of deaths was five less than in the previous year, and the Death Rate 0.3 less whereas the Death Rate for the country as a whole shows an increase of 0.5.

The chief causes of death during the year were Diseases of Heart and Circulatory System, 76; Cancer, 37; Respiratory Diseases, Pneumonia, Bronchitis, etc., 32, and Tuberculosis, 30.

The ages of all cases who died during 1939 and the causes of death are shown in the following Tables:—

AGE AT DEATH OF ALL CASES, WHITEHAVEN BOROUGH, 1939.

Age Groups	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	Over 65	Total
Males ...	16	3	—	—	—	—	3	7	5	5	5	13	31	62	150
Females ...	15	1	—	1	—	4	1	6	4	5	7	11	19	63	137

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1939.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
All causes	150	137
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—
Measles	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Influenza	1	2
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	15	10
Other Tuberculous Disease	4	1
Syphilis	—	1
General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	—	—
Cancer, malignant disease	16	21
Diabetes	3	3
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	6	9
Heart Disease	26	22
Aneurysm	—	—
Other Circulatory Diseases	10	3
Bronchitis	5	7
Pneumonia (all forms)	10	6
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	3
Peptic Ulcer	1	—
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	1	1
Diarrhœa (2 years and over)	1	—
Appendicitis	—	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—
Other Diseases of Liver, &c.	—	2
Other Digestive Diseases	—	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	6	5
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes	—	3
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, &c. ...	11	10
Senility	7	15
Suicide	1	2
Other Violence	6	1
Other Defined Diseases	9	7
Causes ill-defined or unknown ...	8	1

The following Table shows the average annual number of deaths and the average annual crude Death Rate per 1,000 of population by five-year periods since 1890, with the corresponding rate for England and Wales, along with the actual figures for 1939:—

Period.	Borough of Whitehaven.		England and Wales
	Average Annual Number of Deaths.	Average Annual Death Rate per 1,000 of resident population	Average Annual Death Rate per 1,000 of population.
1891—1895	372	19.9	18.7
1896—1900	368	18.1	17.7
1901—1905	368	19.2	16.1
1906—1910	393	20.4	14.7
1911—1915	350	18.2	14.3
1916—1920	315	17.3	14.4
1921—1925	320	15.6	12.2
1926—1930	292	13.8	12.1
1931—1935	281	12.8	12.0
	Number of Deaths.	Death Rate per 1,000 of resident population	Death Rate per 1,000 of population.
1936	289	12.6	12.1
1937	294	13.1	12.4
1938	292	13.1	11.6
1939	287	12.8	12.1

MATERNAL DEATHS.

Three Maternal Deaths took place within the year, none from Sepsis, all from other causes.

The rate per 1,000 total births as compared with the corresponding rates for the whole country were:—

			<i>Rate per 1,000 Total Births.</i>	<i>England and Wales.</i>
From Sepsis ...	...	—	—	0.74
From other causes ...	3	—	6.93	2.08
Total ...	3	—	6.93	2.82
Notifications of Puerperal Pyrexia ...	6	—	13.86	14.35

INFANTILE DEATHS.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age per thousand live births:—

Legitimate, 72. Illegitimate, 125.			Total 75
England and Wales ...	...	...	50
126 Great Towns ...	...	...	53
148 Smaller Towns ...	...	...	40
London ...	...	...	48
County of Cumberland ...	...	...	56

The number of deaths of children under one year of age during 1939 was 31, viz., 16 males and 15 females, which gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 75 per 1,000 registered live births.

This shows an increase of 10 on the rate for the previous year, so that during the past two years the rate has deteriorated by 19 per 1,000 compared with the lowest recorded rate of 56 in 1937, and at present the attention of the Welfare Department is being specially focussed on this feature.

The chief causes of the Infantile Deaths were Prematurity and congenital defects which accounted for 21 of the 31 deaths, and Bronchitis and Pneumonia which accounted for 8 deaths. Twenty-one or 68% of the deaths occurred in the neo-natal period, that is within the first month of life. Male and female groups showed practically an identical rate of mortality.

Births, Infantile Deaths, and Infantile Mortality Rates by wards are shown in the following table. As is generally the case, the majority of infantile deaths occurred in the Kells and Sandwith Wards, but a noticeable and inexplicable feature is the high rate in Bransty Ward, and to a less extent in Hensingham Ward, which had shown a nil return for the previous two years.

	Bransty	Harbour	Kells	Sandwith	Central	Hensingham	Totals
Registered Births	53	47	85	130	68	31	414
Infantile Deaths	6	1	7	13	2	2	31
Infantile Mortality Rate	113	21	82	100	29	65	75

The causes and age at death are shown in the accompanying Table : —

INFANTILE DEATHS SHOWN BY AGES AND CAUSE OF DEATH, 1939.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	AGE IN WEEKS.				AGE IN MONTHS.						Total Deaths
	Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	Under 1 M'th	1—2	2—3	3—6	6—9	9—12	
Premature Birth 	7	3	1	—	11	—	—	1	—	—	12
Congenital Malformation and Debility	7	1	1	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
Bronchitis and Pneumonia 	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	—	2	8
Gastro-Enteritis 	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough 	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
	14	4	3	—	21	2	2	5	1	2	31

The following Table shows the annual average number of Infantile Deaths and the annual average rate per 1,000 live births by five-year periods since 1890 with the corresponding rate for England and Wales, along with the actual figures since 1935:—

Period.	Borough of Whitehaven.		England and Wales
	Average Annual Number of Deaths under one year of age.	Average Annual Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 registered live births	Annual Average Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 registered live births
1891—1895	88	148	151
1896—1900	89	150	156
1901—1905	92	143	138
1906—1910	84	142	117
1911—1915	79	140	110
1916—1920	62	117	90
1921—1925	57	102	76
1926—1930	44	89	68
1931—1935	33	74	62
1936	25	57	59
1937	23	56	58
1938	25	65	53
1939	31	75	50

B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH.

I.—(1) PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

A list is given at the beginning of the report showing the above Officers. The following changes in, or additions to, the staff were made in 1939.

(a) *Consultant in Obstetrics*.—Dr. Purdie was appointed Consultant in Obstetrics in 1938 and took up duty at the beginning of 1939, his duties including consultative ante-natal clinics, emergency consultations and operations, and clinical supervisory control of maternity cases admitted to the Whitehaven and West Cumberland Hospital through the Local Authority's scheme.

Dr. Purdie resigned his appointment on the grounds of ill-health as from 11/5/39, and at the close of the year a successor had not been appointed.

(b) *Additional Sanitary Inspector*.—Mr. E. Ellerington was appointed additional Sanitary Inspector from 1st July, 1939—an additional appointment necessitated by the growth of the work undertaken by the Sanitary Department which up to that time had been carried out single-handed and had assumed too great proportions to be carried out efficiently by one Sanitary Inspector.

(c) *Health Visitors*.—Miss R. Craggs resigned her appointment from the 30th November, 1939, to get married, and at the close of the year this post was still vacant, no suitable applicants having applied, although the post was advertised.

(This post was subsequently filled by the temporary appointment from May 1st, 1940, of Mrs. E. Messenger, who, as Miss E. Wilde, was a member of the staff prior to her marriage).

(2) SERVICES PROVIDED IN THE AREA.

(a) *Laboratory Facilities*.—These are as mentioned in previous reports. Clinical material, milk samples, etc., are sent to the Cumberland Laboratory, Carlisle, and water samples are sent to the County Analyst, Darlington.

General practitioners in the area are allowed to send specimens for examination at the Council's expense when these are required for the diagnosis of notifiable diseases.

The following specimens were sent by practitioners during the year:—

	<i>Positive.</i>	<i>Negative.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Diphtheria	3	35	38
Tuberculosis	3	10	13

The total cost was £7 12s. 6d.

(b) *Ambulance Facilities.*—There has been no alteration in these, the district being adequately served in this respect both as regards infectious and non-infectious cases. A new Ambulance on a 25 h.p. chassis was purchased by the West Cumberland Joint Ambulance Committee at a cost of £890, but had not been delivered at the close of the year.

(c) *Nursing in the Home.*—The Whitehaven and District Nursing Association employ four nurses for general nursing—one for the Bransty district, one for Kells, one for the Central portion of the town, and one—on a part-time basis—for Hensingham and for relief duty. These undertake home nursing under the direction of the medical practitioners.

(d) *Treatment Centres and Clinics.*—These remain as in last year's report—no alterations or additions having been made during the year, with the exception of the Consultative Ante-Natal Clinic. This had to be closed in May when Dr. Purdie resigned.

(I) WELFARE CENTRES.

The two centres were held weekly, Sandhills Lane on Wednesdays and Kells on Fridays, and both continued to be very well patronised—the total attendances for the two centres being increased by 368. The percentage, in relation to notified births, of children under one year of age who were brought to the centre for the first time was 72%.

The figures for the two centres during the year were as follows:—

	<i>Sandhills Lane.</i>	<i>Kells.</i>	<i>Total Borough.</i>
No. of Sessions	51	47	98
No. of children 0-1 years of age who attended for the first time	167	119	286
No. of children 1-5 years of age who attended for the first time	55	27	82
Total Attendance	3,454	2,323	5,777
Average attendance per Session	68	49	

(2) ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

The Ante-Natal Clinic has been held each Monday at the Sandhills Lane Centre, and the figures for attendances are as follows:—

Total attendances of expectant mothers	...	840
No. of expectant mothers who attended	...	317
Average attendance per Session	... ..	18

Since the scheme for Domiciliary Ante-Natal examinations came into operation at the beginning of 1938, all actual ante-natal examinations have been carried out under this scheme and the chief functions of the Ante-Natal Clinic have been supervision, supply of extra nourishment, booking of midwives, and hospital beds, etc. The number of expectant mothers who attended was increased by 119.

DOMICILIARY ANTE-NATAL EXAMINATIONS.

The scheme has already been described in a previous report. By it an expectant mother who is not an insured person and has not engaged a practitioner to attend her confinement but has engaged a midwife only is referred to her own doctor for ante-natal examination, a fee of 5/- being paid by the Town Council for each such report received.

The number of reports received during the year were 403, viz. :—

First Reports	...	...	307
Second Reports	...	...	92
Third Reports	...	...	4

The cost to the Council for these reports was £100 15s. od.

CONSULTATIVE ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

In conjunction with the County Council Dr. Purdie was appointed Consultant Gynaecologist and it was arranged that a combined consultative Ante-Natal Clinic for County and Borough cases be held twice monthly in the Borough Ante-Natal Clinic, such clinic being consultative in character and dealing with cases referred after routine examination.

It was also agreed that Dr. Purdie, in his capacity as consultant, should be given supervisory powers with regard to Local Authority Maternity cases in Whitehaven and West Cumberland Hospital, and that he be retained for emergency consultations, operations, etc., at an agreed scale of fees. The scheme came into operation at the beginning of 1939 but terminated in May owing to Dr. Purdie's resignation. Five cases were referred during this period and an operation was carried out on one of these.

(3) ARTIFICIAL SUNLIGHT CLINIC.

An Artificial Sunlight Clinic was held twice weekly throughout the year at the Sandhills Lane Centre. Once more one has to deplore the fact that it seems impossible to get expectant and nursing mothers to take advantage of this most beneficial form of treatment. They will not even attend with their babies although excellent results are obtained in the case of marasmic delicate infants. It may be that they find it difficult to give the time, but in such a climate as ours, lacking so much in sunshine during the winter months, one is really at a loss to understand why they are so unwilling to attend. There was, however, an improvement with regard to the number of babies who were brought but much more could still be done in this connection.

During the year 102 babies attended, making a total of 664 attendances. In the majority of cases, when they attended regularly enough to give the treatment a chance, very definite improvement was made with this form of treatment.

(4) DENTAL CLINIC.

Dental treatment is provided for expectant and nursing mothers and children under five years of age. Artificial dentures are provided for expectant and nursing mothers at cost price, at reduced cost price, or free, according to circumstances in accordance with the scale set out in a previous report. The dentures are supplied at approximately two guineas for complete upper and lower dentures and no charge is made in connection with the dental treatment involved. One hundred and twenty-seven full and eight partial dentures were supplied, of which 33 were granted free and 25 at reduced cost price, the remainder being paid for at full cost. The total figures for the dental work for the year are shown in the following table:

	<i>Expectant Mothers.</i>	<i>Nursing Mothers.</i>	<i>Pre-School Children.</i>
Numbers specially referred to dental clinics by Medical Officer	91	42	50
Numbers who actually attended	68	33	68
Numbers found to be in need of treatment	68	33	67
Numbers who received treat- ment	67	38	63
Numbers made dentally fit ...	61	36	63
Total Attendances	372	254	90

Number of treatments

(a) Fillings.				
(1) in temporary teeth	—	—	—	
(2) in permanent teeth	27	4	—	
(b) Number of teeth extracted				
	587	444	142	
(c) Number of administrations of (i) general anaesthesia				
	—	—	83	
(ii) Local anaesthesia	135	95	1	
(d) Number of patients supplied with dentures				
	40	29	—	
(e) Number of dentures supplied				
	76 full	51 full	—	
	3 partial	5 partial	—	

A Report by Mr. Hilton, Dental Officer, is reproduced below:—

Sir,

It is with pleasure I herewith present my sixth Annual Report for the year ending December, 1939.

The figures for dental work carried out in connection with the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics are shown in the foregoing table. Three half days per week have been devoted to this branch of the Dental Service during the year and comparison with the statistics produced for 1938 will show that the amount of treatment carried out has been more than maintained.

While the numbers of individual mothers who received treatment are not quite so high nevertheless it is clear that more treatment has been carried out per patient, and a greater number have been made dentally fit. The number of extractions carried out has been maintained, while the dentures provided have risen considerably, due partly to the fact that various patients whose extractions had been completed in 1938 have been ready for completion of their dental treatment in the early months of the year.

The dental mechanical work has, during the year, been carried out locally and the finished work has been satisfactory. The dental mechanic concerned having intimated his intention of discontinuing owing to personal reasons, negotiations are at present in progress for a suitable substitute.

The necessary payments towards the cost of dentures provided have been regularly received from the mothers over 12 months. Attendances for this purpose and for the supply of the various forms in connection with these are not included in the attendance figures given.

Dental treatment for the children under school age has been carried out in a manner similar to that of previous years. The parents who have taken advantage of the scheme for their children are shown to be similar in number to last year.

The number of extractions per patient however, has been greater, due partly to repeated visits for treatment made by some of the children.

I have been capably assisted in my work by Miss Field, my Dental Nurse for which I record my entire appreciation, and Dr. Innes for your support throughout the year I desire to express my sincere thanks.

(e) HOSPITALS.

(1) *General*. The position as regards general hospital accommodation remains as stated in previous reports, and the building of a new hospital has not yet commenced.

(2) *Fever*. The position is as stated in last year's report, cases both from the Borough and from the Ennerdale Rural District being admitted to Galemire Hospital in the latter area.

The scheme for the formation of a West Cumberland Joint Hospital Board as described in last year's report had not come into operation at the close of the year.

(3) *Smallpox*. The position as regards accommodation for Smallpox remains as already reported upon.

II.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

(1) MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES.

(a) *Midwives.* As stated in last year's report, the County Council as Local Supervising Authority provides the midwifery services in the Borough under the Midwives Act, 1936. Four full-time midwives are provided. They work in close co-operation with the Officers of the Local Authority and attend the weekly Ante-Natal Clinic, for the supervision of their cases. Copies of all Domiciliary Ante-Natal reports relating to their cases are supplied to them.

(b) *Maternity Services.* The Town Council continued their arrangement with the Whitehaven and West Cumberland Hospital by which maternity cases and notified puerperal cases are received into that institution.

The maternity cases accepted for admission through the Local Authority are:—

- (1) Primiparae (i.e., first confinements).
- (2) Cases whose physical condition warrants their admission.
- (3) Cases whose housing conditions are unsuitable.
- (4) Emergencies.

The Local Authority makes an annual contribution of £150 to cover these admissions.

During the year 45 cases were admitted through the Local Authority, but altogether 101 Borough confinements took place in Hospital.

(2) INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR MOTHERS OR CHILDREN.

There are no arrangements for institutional treatment for mothers or children.

(3) HEALTH VISITORS.

The Health Visitors act also as School Nurses, each combining the duties of the two posts for an area including a group of schools. Whilst there may be disadvantages from certain points of view with this arrangement, it does save a considerable amount of time in travelling, visits for both classes of work can be carried out at the same time, and it gives a continuity of supervision in some families from birth until the end of school age.

There was one change of personnel during the year. At the end of the year one post was vacant and it seemed most unlikely that a suitable applicant would be found.

HOME VISITING.

The number of home visits again showed a large increase the total number of visits for the year being raised from 9,721 in 1938 to 10,722, composed of 405 first visits to newly-born babies, 2,769 re-visits to children under one, 7,190 visits to children one to five years of age, and 358 visits to expectant mothers. At the same time undue importance must not be attached to actual numbers of visits. A visit that accomplishes something is of much more value than a number of hurried visits with nothing achieved and it has been repeatedly stressed to the Health Visitors that something more is wanted than the continued raising of the record of visits done. The visits made by each visitor are detailed below:—

	Miss Berry	Miss Craggs 1	Miss Lodge	Miss Hodgson	Total
First visits to children under one year of age ...	125	93	87	100	405
Re-visits to children under one year of age ...	756	553	802	658	2,769
Visits to children : 1—5 years of age ...	2,157	1,642	1,534	1,857	7,190
Visits to Expectant Mothers ...	98	72	102	86	358
Total ...	3,136	2,360	2,525	2,701	10,722

(1)—January—November.

(4) CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

The Local Authority discharges the functions under Part VII. of the Public Health Act, 1936, with reference to the supervision of children under nine years of age who are maintained for reward apart from their parents, through the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee. The Health Visitors and Mrs. Wignall, a member of the Committee, are the designated Child Protection Visitors.

During the year, eight children were on the Register and were kept under regular supervision, reports being submitted to each meeting of the Committee.

(5) ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT.

The arrangements for this form of treatment are as described in previous reports, the Local Authority participating in the Orthopaedic scheme of the County Council.

During the year fourteen children under school age made 48 attendances at the Orthopaedic Clinic. One child of this age was admitted to Hospital.

ASSISTED MILK SCHEME.

An experimental scheme for the supply of milk at cheap rates to Expectant and Nursing Mothers and to children of pre-school age which had been in operation since 1st October, 1937, and which was fully described in last year's report continued to function until the end of September, 1939.

The Ministry of Health requested all Welfare Authorities to introduce similar schemes as part of their welfare programme, and consequently the special assistance in various forms that had been given to Whitehaven whilst the scheme was operating as an experiment was withdrawn.

The Ministry and the Local Authority failed to reach agreement as to the extent of the scheme that the Council should introduce as their official scheme. The Council was prepared to operate a scheme on broadly similar lines to the experimental one so as to provide a supply of milk to those in the foregoing categories at a flat rate of 2d. a pint without any means test. The Ministry refused to sanction this proposal, desiring the Council to go further with a scaling down of prices according to means. The Council felt that this would involve an amount of extra work and expenditure that they could not see their way to undertake, and accordingly, no agreement being reached, the scheme was allowed to lapse.

That this unhappy deadlock was reached was most unfortunate, since the scheme had, in the two years of its experimental existence, encouraged a very much increased consumption of milk within the Borough, with attendant good results.

During the two years the amount of milk actually purchased through the scheme amounted to 121,357 gallons, the number of individuals participating being 2,984.

During the three quarters of 1939, new applications were received in respect of 518 individuals made up as follows:—

		<i>At 2d. per pint.</i>	<i>At 1½d. per pint.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
(a)	Expectant Mothers ...	102	30	132
(b)	Nursing Mothers ...	39	15	54
(c)	Children 0-5 years of age	203	129	332
		<hr/> 344	<hr/> 174	<hr/> 518

The number of persons who were actually on the "live" register of the scheme when it closed down was 1,462, made up as follows:—

		<i>At 2d. per pint.</i>	<i>At 1½d. per pint.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
(a)	Expectant Mothers ...	38	12	50
(b)	Nursing Mothers ...	114	60	174
(c)	Children 0-5 years of age	721	517	1,238
		<hr/> 873	<hr/> 589	<hr/> 1,462

The amount of milk authorised to be purchased during the nine months under the scheme was 52,114 gallons, whilst the amount actually purchased was 50,859 gallons. These amounts were made up as follows:—

		AUTHORISED PINTS.		PURCHASED PINTS.	
<i>Month.</i>		<i>At 2d.</i>	<i>At 1½d.</i>	<i>At 2d.</i>	<i>At 1½d.</i>
January	...	25,617	19,761	24,748	19,756
February	...	23,498	18,562	23,181	18,454
March	...	27,989	20,842	26,492	20,259
April	...	27,085	19,165	26,453	18,960
May	...	28,007	20,041	27,291	19,174
June	...	26,392	19,194	25,841	18,924
July	...	27,875	20,363	27,466	19,819
August	...	28,040	19,142	27,436	18,999
September	...	27,031	18,304	26,094	17,527
Totals	...	<hr/> 241,534	<hr/> 175,374	<hr/> 235,002	<hr/> 171,872

C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

I.—(I) WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply is obtained from Lake Ennerdale situated about eight miles from Whitehaven, and with the exception of some isolated farms and houses, the whole of the Borough is supplied from this source.

The scheme for the supply to Scilly Banks, one of the areas added at the extension of the Borough, had not materialised at the end of the year although the plans were completed for putting the work in hand.

Twelve samples were analysed during the year. Apart from occasional evidence of surface pollution the samples were satisfactory.

Owing, however, to the possibility of contamination from the adjacent dwellings and from the surroundings of the lake which are open to the public, and more especially owing to the danger arising from a hotel, the sewage effluent from which is discharged into the lake at not very considerable distance from the intake, the Council has considered it advisable to adopt a form of purification, and a modern chloramine plant is to be installed, which should effectively guarantee the safety of the water supply.

Mr. Wilson, Borough Engineer, has very kindly supplied the following information with regard to water supply.

The rainfall for the year was 39.79 inches, compared with 57.49 inches in 1938, and an average of 48.58 during the preceding fifteen years. There was .01 of an inch or more on 183 days and .04 or more on 137 days. At no time was there danger of shortage, the lowest recorded level of the lake being 34 inches below the level of the overflow on June 10th, as compared with the lowest recorded level of 52 inches below the level of the overflow weir in July, 1921.

The average daily consumption was approximately $1\frac{1}{4}$ million gallons. All new mains now being laid are lined with concrete or cement asbestos in order to obviate encrustation of

the inside of the pipes, and thus present the discolouration of the water at dead ends, and to prevent a reduction in volume.

During the year a new 6-inch Cast Iron water main has been laid from Hensingham Road to Rosebank in order to give an increased supply of water to this area.

(2) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The main sewerage work still outstanding is the scheme for dealing with Sandwith, which has been held up since it was intimately associated with a scheme of the Ennerdale Rural District upon which agreement has not yet been reached by that body.

II.—RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There are no rivers or streams of any consequence in the area.

III.—(I) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

No conversions were carried out during the year, the Scilly Banks scheme still being uncompleted owing to the water supply scheme not yet having been carried out, but it is hoped that this work will soon be undertaken.

(2) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

There is nothing new to report in this connection, the arrangements being as set out in previous reports.

(3) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The report by the Sanitary Inspector is printed as an appendix. It deals fully with the inspections carried out during the year, notices served, etc.

(4) SHOPS.

With the appointment of an additional Sanitary Inspector it was possible to give more attention to this work and 35 shops were dealt with, 3 defects being remedied.

(5) SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was taken under this heading during the year.

(6) SWIMMING BATH.

The Corporation swimming bath is equipped with up-to-date means of filtration and purification, the whole contents being filtered and chlorinated every four hours by a combined process.

A sample of the water taken in August when the bath was in full use was submitted for bacteriological examination with satisfactory results, the report showing that the sample was free from contamination by any form of excrement.

(7) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Seventeen houses were found to be verminous and were disinfested by spraying with insecticide or fumigation with Sulphur Dioxide.

IV.—SCHOOLS.

There are sixteen schools or Departments in the Borough. One school, the Senior Selective school, at Howgill Street, was taken over on the outbreak of war by the Air Raid Precautions Authority and converted for use as a First Aid Post and First Aid Party Depot.

Sanitary improvements were carried out at Crosthwaite School, trough closets being abolished and replaced by pedestals. Otherwise there has been no change of importance to report as to the condition of schools.

D.—HOUSING.

I.—INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1)	(a)	Total Number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	865
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	2,166
(2)	(a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	246
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	512
(3)		Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	204
(4)		Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	42

II.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR.

WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	21
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III.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—		
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...		<i>nil</i>
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:—		
	(a)	By Owners	<i>nil</i>
	(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	<i>nil</i>

(b)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	<i>nil</i>
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—					
	(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	<i>nil</i>
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	<i>nil</i>

(c)—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	4
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	3

(d)—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	3
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	<i>nil</i>

IV.—HOUSING ACT, 1936.—PART IV.—

OVERCROWDING:—

(a)	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	12
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	12
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	74
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	6
(c)	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	55
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	344
(d)		There were no cases in which dwellinghouses again became overcrowded after the Local Authority had taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.					

OVERCROWDING.

No formal scheme has been adopted for dealing with overcrowding but this aspect of housing has not been neglected as the following figures show:—

<i>Overcrowding.</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Overcrowded houses in</i>			
	<i>overcrowded</i>	<i>Persons.</i>	<i>Clearance</i>	<i>Council</i>	<i>Others</i>
<i>families</i>			<i>Areas.</i>	<i>Houses.</i>	
Census 1936	266	1,550	110	28	128
end of 1937	172	1,090	75	14	83
end of 1938	67	418	37	5	25
end of 1939	12	74	5	2	5

This reduction in overcrowding has been effected by the transfer of tenants to suitable existing houses, belonging either to the Council or to private owners and it is believed that overcrowding can be practically eliminated in this way.

HOUSING ACT, 1936.—PART III.

Official representations were made during the year under Section 154 of the Housing Act, 1936, with regard to nine unfit areas Nos. 39—47 inclusive comprising 194 houses and other buildings with a population of 574, but owing to the war the proceedings in regard to these had to be suspended before an enquiry could be held.

E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

PRODUCERS.

Forty producers are concerned in the milk supply of the Borough. Twenty-four of these are resident in the Borough, viz. : One Tuberculin Tested, 13 Accredited, and 10 Ungraded.

Of the 16 outside producers three hold Tuberculin Tested licences, 7 Accredited, 1 Pasteurised, and 5 are ungraded.

RETAILERS.

Forty-two persons were registered for the sale of milk.

The premises in which milk is produced or sold have been kept under supervision during the year, sixty-three visits being paid for that purpose.

The scheme for taking samples in which the Borough and the County co-operate and which has been outlined in previous reports was continued with satisfactory results.

A total of 96 samples was taken during the year with the following results :—

Grade of Milk.	No. of Samples.	Satis- factory.	Unsatisfactory		Both tests.	Tubercle Bacilli present.
			B.Coli.	Methylene blue test.		
Tuberculin Tested	12	8	—	4	—	—
Accredited	73	45	1	12	15	—
Ungraded	11	8	2	1	—	—

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There are two licensed and four registered slaughterhouses one of the licensed premises being used by fourteen butchers. During the year the Sanitary Inspector paid 228 visits, and statistics with regard to the number of animals killed, and the amount of meat surrendered or condemned will be found in his report.

Most of the premises used for slaughtering are totally unsuitable both by reason of their situation and condition. Under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, the question of granting licences to these was being considered at the close of the year.

F.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

I. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

There was very little to note in regard to notifiable diseases in the district during the year, apart from a considerable decline in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified and the reduction of Diphtheria to two cases for the whole year.

Infectious diseases notified during the year are shown by age groups in the following table with the numbers admitted to Hospital and the numbers of deaths from these diseases.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.		Total Cases	Under 1 Year.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	Over 65	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox
Scarlet Fever	20	...
Diphtheria	2	...
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)
Puerperal Pyrexia	4*	...
Pneumonia (Primary and Influenzal)	16 (all forms)	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Erysipelas
Cerebro-Spinal-Meningitis
Chickenpox
Measles	1	...
Whooping Cough

*—3 of these notified from Hospital.

†—Admitted City General Hospital, Carlisle.

SMALLPOX.

No cases of Smallpox occurred during the year.

SCARLET FEVER.

Period.	Average Annual Number of cases notified.	Average Annual attack rate per 1,000 of population.	Average Annual number of deaths.	Average Annual fatality rate per 100 notified cases.	Average Annual percentage of cases removed to Hospital.
1896—1900	112	5.8	5.6	5.0	22
1901—1905	45	2.3	2.0	4.4	50
1906—1910	83	4.3	3.2	3.9	66
1911—1915	32	1.7	0.6	1.9	81
1916—1920	15	0.8	0.0	0.0	78
1921—1925	46	2.3	0.2	0.4	90
1926—1930	26	1.2	0.0	0.0	95
1931—1935	19	0.9	0.0	0.0	93
1936	16	0.7	0	0.0	75
1937	7	0.3	0	0.0	86
1938	61	2.7	0	0.0	67
1939	38	1.7	0	0.0	53

The above Table shows the incidence of Scarlet Fever, the attack rate and the mortality rate by five-year groups since 1895 with the actual figures subsequent to 1935.

Thirty-eight cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, the attack rate of notified cases being 1.7 per thousand of population. Twenty cases were admitted to hospital.

There were no deaths from this disease.

Acting on the principles outlined in a previous year's report the wholesale removal to hospital of cases notified was not encouraged, but this did not lead to a wholesale epidemic.

DIPHTHERIA.

Period.	Average Annual Number of cases notified.	Average Annual attack rate per 1,000 of population.	Average Annual number of deaths.	Average Annual fatality rate per 100 notified cases.	Average Annual percentage of cases removed to Hospital.
1896—1900	7	0.4	2.0	29.4	0
1901—1905	12	0.6	3.4	27.9	7
1906—1910	8	0.4	2.2	27.5	15
1911—1915	9	0.5	2.0	21.7	46
1916—1920	7	0.4	2.0	27.0	54
1921—1925	16	0.8	0.6	3.7	90
1926—1930	14	0.7	0.8	5.8	97
1931—1935	18	0.8	2.2	9.7	99
1936	31	1.3	3	9.7	97
1937	24	1.1	0	0.0	100
1938	14	0.6	0	0.0	100
1939	2	0.09	0	0.0	100

The above Table shows the incidence of Diphtheria, the attack rate and the mortality rate by five-year groups since 1895 with the actual figures subsequent to 1935.

Two cases were notified during the year—twelve less than in the previous year, the attack rate being 0.09 per 1,000 of population.

Actually seven cases were admitted to Hospital as Diphtheria or suspected Diphtheria. Two of these were confirmed clinically and bacteriologically, two showed positive bacteriological reports without clinical signs, and three were negative clinically and bacteriologically.

There were no deaths from this disease.

Diphtheria is on the increase not only in this country, but in others, and therefore it is all the more gratifying to record

again a fall in the number of notified cases. There can be little doubt that this happy position is, in a large measure, due to the high percentage of school children who have been immunised.

Immunisation has been available to all children both of school age and, through the Welfare Clinics, of pre-school age.

Three hundred and forty school children were inoculated during 1939, making a total of 3,980 inoculated since the scheme began in 1936.

The percentage of children on the registers of the elementary schools on 31st December who had been immunised was 72.5, the percentage varying in different schools from 91.0 to 42.1. The scheme is a purely voluntary one, and in all cases a consent form signed by the child's parents or guardian is first obtained. Unfortunately the lowest percentages are found amongst the youngest age groups where the danger, and consequently, the need for immunisation are greatest.

The response in the case of children of pre-school age has been very disappointing so far, although 59 infants were brought for immunisation during the year as compared with only 12 in the previous year. A special effort is being made in regard to these younger children and special sessions have been arranged at both welfare centres for this purpose.

The value of immunisation is now definitely established. Extravagant claims are not made for it but it is definitely guaranteed that the big majority of those who are inoculated will be immune to the disease, and that those who do subsequently take the disease will only do so in a mild and modified form.

Children who die from this disease only do so now because they are allowed to. Parents have it in their power to prevent such catastrophes, and now that the Local Authority has made immunisation available for all children, one cannot appeal too strongly to parents to avail themselves of the facilities provided and thus prevent needless suffering and perhaps loss of life.

The method employed is the "two-shot" method with Alum Precipitated Toxoid (Parke Davis & Co.) as described in last year's report.

The value of immunisation has been definitely and indisputably established. It is up to parents to see that their children are protected.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Showing number of children inoculated during the year 1939, and the number and percentage number of children inoculated and in school on 31st December, 1939.

SCHOOL.	No. of Children on Register 31-12-39.	Number Inoculated in 1939.	Total Number of Inoculated Children in School. 31-12-39	Percentage of Number on Register.
Trinity	234	7	213	91.0
Irish Street Senior	256	12	216	84.4
Monkwray	387	13	324	83.7
Central	266	4	220	82.7
St. James' Junior	241	22	193	80.1
St. Begh's Boys	329	17	255	77.5
Hensingham Junior	73	1	55	75.3
Bransty Junior	233	19	168	72.1
Crosthwaite	276	31	194	70.3
St. Begh's Girls	354	10	242	68.4
Kells Council	412	70	265	64.3
Hensingham Infants	53	16	32	60.4
St. James' Infants	107	29	58	54.2
St. Mary's R.C.	159	41	84	52.2
Irish St. Infants	95	25	44	46.3
SS. Gregory & Patrick	145	23	61	42.1
TOTALS	3620	340	2624	72.5

ENTERIC FEVER.

No cases of enteric fever were notified during the year.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

Six cases were notified. Three were notified from Whitehaven Hospital. Of the three outside cases, 1 case was admitted to Whitehaven Hospital, 1 case was notified from a nursing home, and the other case was treated at home. One of the cases notified from hospital died there.

PNEUMONIA.

Nineteen cases of Acute, Primary, or Influenzal Pneumonia were notified, an increase of four cases as compared with the number for 1938. The number of deaths from Pneumonia (all forms) was 16.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Two cases were notified. Both were admitted to the City General Hospital, Carlisle, and both recovered without apparent impairment of vision.

ERYSIPELAS.

Ten cases were notified.

CEREBRO-SPINAL-MENINGITIS.

No cases were notified.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.

Under the Regulations of 1939 these diseases became notifiable from the 1st November. During the last two months of the year 19 cases of Measles were notified and 6 cases of Whooping Cough.

GALEMIRE FEVER HOSPITAL.

Galemire Hospital, belonging to the Ennerdale Rural District Council, continued to be used jointly for cases of infectious disease from the Ennerdale Rural District and from Whitehaven Borough. Cases are also admitted from the Millom Rural District, if accommodation is available.

The work of the hospital was considerably less as compared with the previous year only about half the number of cases being admitted.

	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Diagnosis not Confirmed			Total.
In Hospital						
Jan. 1, 1939	—	3	—			3
Admitted 1939	10	43	5			58
Discharged 1939	5	45	5			55
Died	—	—	—			—
In Hospital						
Jan. 1, 1940	5	1	—			6

At the close of 1938 there were 3 cases in Hospital, all of Scarlet Fever—two belonging to the Ennerdale Rural District and one to Whitehaven.

During 1939 a total of 58 cases were admitted as follows:

	<i>Ennerdale</i>		<i>Millom.</i>	
	<i>Rural District.</i>	<i>Whitehaven.</i>	<i>Rural District.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Diphtheria ...	6	4	—	10
Scarlet Fever ...	18	22	3	43
Other Cases ...	2	3	—	5
	—	—	—	—
	26	29	3	58
	—	—	—	—

The “other cases” included cases sent in as Diphtheria in which the diagnosis was not confirmed, *e.g.*, Quinsy, etc., and also a case of Puerperal Pyrexia sent in as Scarlet Fever.

Fifty-five cases were discharged, leaving six cases in hospital at the close of 1939, viz.: four cases of Diphtheria and one of Scarlet Fever belonging to the Rural District and one of Diphtheria belonging to the Borough.

A noticeable feature was the small number of Diphtheria cases. Of those confirmed clinically and bacteriologically only one of these was a school child and this child had not been immunised.

PATIENT DAYS.

The Patient Days for all cases were as follows:—

	<i>Whitehaven.</i>	<i>Ennerdale.</i>	<i>Millom.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Diphtheria ...	83	176	—	259
Scarlet Fever ...	578	498	112	1,188
Other Cases ...	58	17	—	75
	—	—	—	—
	719	691	112	1,522
	—	—	—	—

The average duration of treatment of cases discharged during 1939 was:—

Diphtheria (5 cases) ...	...	28 days
Scarlet Fever (45 cases) ...	...	29 „
Other Cases (5) ...	...	12 „

II.—CANCER.

There were 37 deaths from Cancer during the year, a decrease of five compared with the number in 1938, viz.: 16 males and 21 females. The Mortality Rate from this disease was 1.65 per 1,000 of population, as compared with 1.67 for the country as a whole.

The sites of the Lesions were as follows:—

<i>Males.</i>				<i>Females.</i>			
Mouth	...	...	1	Stomach	...	...	5
Pharynx	...	...	1	Liver	...	...	2
Stomach	...	...	7	Colon	...	...	3
Caecum	...	...	1	Rectum	...	...	3
Colon	...	...	2	Uverus	...	...	2
Bladder	...	...	1	Ovary	...	...	1
Prostate	...	...	1	Breast	...	...	3
Larynx	...	...	1	Abdomen	...	...	1
Lung	...	...	1	Cervical Glands	...	...	1
16				21			

The average age at death of all cases was 63 years—of males 67 and of females 60.

The Death Rate from Cancer in the Borough as compared with the rate for England and Wales by five year periods is shown in the following table:—

Period	Borough of Whitehaven		England and Wales
	Average no. of deaths	Average rate per 1,000 of population	Average rate per 1,000 of population
1901—5	17	0.90	0.87
1906—10	15	0.77	0.94
1911—15	17	0.87	1.05
1916—20	24	1.30	1.18
1921—25	23	1.11	1.27
1926—30	25	1.19	1.41
1931—35	31	1.39	1.53
1936	40	1.74	1.63
1937	35	1.56	1.63
1938	42	1.88	1.66
1939	37	1.65	1.67

III.—(a) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action was taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

(b) PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

By these Regulations the Local Authority can, on the report in writing of their Medical Officer of Health, by notice in writing, require any person suffering from Tuberculosis of the respiratory tract, and in an infectious state, who is employed in connection with a dairy or the handling of milk or vessels for containing milk, to discontinue his employment. The Regulations also forbid any person knowing he is suffering from Tuberculosis to undertake such employment.

No action was required to be taken under these Regulations during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 172.

Section 172 of the above Act deals with the power of a Court of Summary Jurisdiction to make an order, on the application of the Local Authority, for the removal to and detention in a hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

No action was taken during the year under this section.

IV.—TUBERCULOSIS.

The following Table shows the new cases and mortality for the Borough of Whitehaven during 1939 by age groups and sex :—

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	Male	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
0— 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1— 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5—10	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	1
10—15	2	2	3	1	1	0	1	0
15—20	4	3	2	0	4	5	1	0
20—25	3	3	0	1	3	3	1	0
25—35	1	2	1	0	4	0	0	0
35—45	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45—55	2	3	0	0	2	1	0	0
55—65	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0
65 and upwards	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Total	15	16	8	2	15	10	4	1

Total new Cases 41

Total Deaths 30

Death Rate per 1,000 of population :—

	<i>Whitehaven.</i>	<i>England and Wales.</i>
Respiratory	1.11	0.54
Non-Respiratory	0.23	0.10
All forms	1.34	0.64

Included in the above deaths were four cases that had not been previously notified, the proportion of non-notified deaths being 13 per cent. In each case a satisfactory explanation was received.

Deaths from Tuberculosis (all forms) showed an increase of nine compared with the number for the previous year. The number was in excess of the average for the past number of years and gave a death rate of more than double that for the country as a whole. It is disappointing to find that in spite of improved housing conditions and other aids such as milk and feeding in schools the improvement one would naturally expect has not yet become apparent. On the other hand, the number of new cases was thirteen less than for the previous year, so that one might justifiably predict a better result for the next year.

The following Table shows the Death Rate per 1,000 of population from Tubercular Diseases in Whitehaven as compared with England and Wales as a whole by five year groups from 1911.

Year Groups	Tuberculosis (Respiratory)			Tuberculosis (all forms).		
	Whitehaven.		England and Wales. Death Rate per 1,000	Whitehaven.		England and Wales. Death Rate per 1,000
	Average Number of Deaths.	Average Rate per 1,000.		Average Number of Deaths.	Average Rate per 1,000.	
1911—15	19.8	1.03	1.05	34.6	1.81	1.41
1916—20	22.2	1.22	1.11	33.6	1.85	1.48
1921—25	22.2	1.10	0.86	29.8	1.47	1.08
1926—30	20.0	0.95	0.76	25.2	1.20	0.94
1931—35	20.4	0.94	0.61	26.8	1.23	0.81
1936	19	0.83	0.58	25	1.09	0.69
1937	20	0.89	0.58	23	1.02	0.69
1938	19	0.85	0.53	21	0.94	0.64
1939	25	1.11	0.54	30	1.34	0.64

SANATORIUM TREATMENT.

			In Institutions 1st Jan. 1939.	Admitted	Dis- charged.	Died.	In Institutions 1st Jan. 1940.
PULMONARY CASES:							
Men	...	...	6	17	16	3	4
Women	...	...	6	7	9	2	2
Boys	...	...	3	5	5	—	3
Girls	...	...	2	4	3	—	3
NON-PULMONARY CASES:							
Men	...	...	1	3	3	1	—
Women	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Boys	...	...	2	1	2	—	1
Girls	...	...	1	1	—	—	2
OBSERVATION CASES:							
Males	...		3	2	4	1	—
Females	...	...	—	8	7	—	1
Total	...		24	48	49	7	16

The above Table shows the number of Tuberculosis cases and Observation Tuberculosis cases from the Borough of Whitehaven that received Sanatorium treatment under the County Council Scheme during 1939. Altogether 72 cases from Whitehaven were treated in Sanatoria during the year.

The number of notified cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1939 was:—

Pulmonary—Males	...	...	...	...	99
—Females	...	...	...	...	98
Non-Pulmonary—Males	...	...	...	...	21
—Females	...	...	...	...	21
Total					<hr/> 239 <hr/>

In a previous year's report it was stated that powers were given to the Medical Officer of Health to give special facilities for the removal to suitable Council houses of families in which there was a case of tuberculosis living under unsuitable conditions. Such cases are ranked as eligible for rebate of rent on the same terms as tenants compulsorily removed from Clearance Areas. During the year fourteen families were rehoused under this provision.

APPENDIX I.
SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
REPORT.

TOWN HALL,
WHITEHAVEN.

31st January, 1940.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
WHITEHAVEN.

Sir,

I beg to submit my seventeenth Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1939.

648 preliminary notices have been served during the year, and it has not been found necessary to serve any statutory notices, most of the required work being done without much difficulty being encountered.

INSPECTIONS.

Visits to Slaughterhouses	228
„ „ Common Lodging Houses	51
„ „ Dairies, etc.	63
„ „ Premises where food is prepared	75
„ „ Ice Cream Shops	8
„ „ Factories	94
„ „ Bakehouses	50
„ „ Shops	35
„ „ Vessels in Harbour	10
„ „ Entertainment Halls	3
„ „ Offensive Trades	6
„ „ Evacuees' Billets	405
„ „ Schools	14
„ „ Rat Infested Premises	56
„ „ New Buildings	33
Cases of infectious disease investigated	72
Visits after infectious disease	74
Milk samples obtained	96
Water samples obtained	15
Housing inspections (Housing Act)	584
Housing inspections (Public Health Act)	1,582
Interviews with owners or occupiers	309
Miscellaneous	115
Total ...	3,978

IMPROVEMENTS.

Obstructed drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	18
Drains repaired or relaid	...	...	...	...	11
New gullies fixed	...	...	...	...	18
New pedestal W.C.s fixed	...	...	...	...	15
New flushing cisterns fixed	...	...	...	...	9
Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	16
New sinks fixed	...	...	...	...	4
Inside water supply provided	...	...	...	...	3
House roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	21
Plastering repaired	...	...	...	...	27
New spouting provided	...	...	...	...	3
Floors repaired or relaid	...	...	...	...	12
New windows fixed	...	...	...	...	20
Handrails provided	...	...	...	...	6
Food stores provided	...	...	...	...	3
Additional water supply provided	...	...	...	...	1
Yard paving relaid	...	...	...	...	2
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	2
Nuisance from keeping animals abated	...	...	...	...	1
New dust bins provided	...	...	...	...	372
Factory improvements	...	...	...	...	28
Shop improvements	...	...	...	...	3
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	...	54
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	55
Cowsheds limewashed	...	...	...	...	14
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	29
Total					747

FATORIES.

144 visits have been paid to the factories during the year and the following contraventions were observed:—

Want of limewashing	...	...	...	...	2
Insufficient ventilation	...	...	...	...	1
Absence of abstract	...	...	...	...	1
Insufficient sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	1
Defective sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	17
Dirty sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	6
Total					28

The necessary work was carried out in all cases except one on verbal notice being given, and that case was in hand at the end of the year.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

This work was increased during the year and 35 premises were inspected. 3 contraventions were observed and all were remedied by the end of the year:—

Insufficient sanitary conveniences	1
Defective sanitary conveniences	2
Total	<hr/> 3 <hr/>

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

It has not been found necessary to take any action with regard to smoke abatement during the year.

VERMINOUS HOUSES.

The number of houses found to be infested with vermin was 17, viz.:—

Council houses	6
Other houses	11

Each was sprayed with an insecticide or fumigated with sulphur, the insecticide used being either Pyagra or Zaldecide.

In the early part of the year a disinfestation van was purchased and all persons removed to Council houses have their furniture and household goods removed in the van and disinfested previous to occupying the house. This applies not only to tenants removed from slum clearance areas or individually closed houses but also to any change of tenancy that occurs in a Council house. “Cimex” blocks and “Fumoids” have been used during the year and both have proved satisfactory. No complaint has been received from any house the goods of which were treated in this way previous to entry.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.—There are 24 producers resident in the Borough, viz.:—1 Tuberculin Tested, 13 Accredited, and 10 Ungraded. In addition, 16 outside producers, viz.:—3

Tuberculin Tested, 7 Accredited, 1 Pasteurised, and 5 Ungraded, supply milk either wholesale or retail for sale in Whitehaven.

There are 42 retailers registered for the sale of milk, viz. : 19 producer-retailers resident in the Borough, 10 producer-retailers resident outside, and 13 retailers resident inside or outside the Borough.

Samples.—During the year 96 samples were obtained for bacteriological examination. Of these, 12 were obtained from the Tuberculin Tested Producers, 73 from Accredited Producers, and 11 were ungraded. Of the 12 samples of Tuberculin Tested milk 8 were satisfactory and 4 failed to pass the methylene blue test. Of the 73 samples from Accredited Producers, 45 were satisfactory, 12 failed to pass the methylene blue test, 1 contained B.Coli to an excessive degree, and 15 were unsatisfactory in both respects. Of the 11 samples of ungraded milk, 8 were up to Accredited standard and 3 below that standard. Of the 3 unsatisfactory samples, 1 failed to pass the methylene blue test and the other 2 contained B.Coli to an excessive degree but passed the methylene blue test.

Of the 28 unsatisfactory samples of Accredited milk, 10 producers were involved, 1 on one occasion, 2 on two occasions, 6 on three occasions, and 1 on five occasions. In the case of the 3 ungraded samples 3 producers were concerned.

63 visits have been made to the cowsheds and dairies, and, on the whole, very little fault has been found with the general cleanliness and conduct of the premises.

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection.—There are 2 licensed and 4 registered slaughterhouses, 1 of the licensed premises being used by fourteen butchers.

228 visits have been made to the premises and, as previously reported, although no serious fault can be found in the way they are conducted generally the situation of the registered premises is altogether very unsatisfactory.

Following the coming into operation of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, all slaughterhouses are deemed to hold a

licence for a period of four months expiring on the 31st January, 1940, during which period the occupiers of slaughterhouses have to apply for grant or renewal of a licence, and as all the registered slaughterhouses have always been considered unfit for use the premises have been reported upon unfavourably and the matter was under consideration at the end of the year.

The following tables show the number of animals killed and inspected and the unsound food surrendered during the year:—

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle ex- cluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	464	944	517	6,781	2,396
Number inspected ...	160	485	129	2,204	1,014
<i>All Diseases Except Tuberculosis</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	11	—	8	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	1.9	2.27	—	.363	.394
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	28	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	21	—	—	12
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	10.10	—	—	1.18

OTHER ARTICLES OF FOOD SURRENDERED.

2½ stones haddock	...	...	...	decomposed
2½ stones fillet	...	...	...	„
35lbs. sausages	...	...	...	„
4 tins Danish ham	...	...	...	„

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The number of offensive trades now on the Register is:—

1 fat melter, and

1 rag and bone dealer.

The trade of a fish and chip potato fryer, which has been an offensive trade in the Borough for the past eleven years, has now ceased to be classed under this heading as the three years since the passing of the Public Health Act, 1936, have now elapsed. The trade, however, can still be controlled by Byelaws.

6 visits have been paid to the premises during this year and they have been found to be conducted satisfactorily.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES AND HOUSES-LET-IN-LODGINGS.

There is 1 common lodging house and 3 houses-let-in-lodgings on the Register. 1 common lodging house was discontinued during the year.

51 visits have been paid to the premises and no serious fault has been found in the way in which they are conducted.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. F. LORD,

Sanitary Inspector.

